

# NEWS RELEASE

# THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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## Social Security “privatization” — Or government takeover of business?

WASHINGTON, DC — A government panel’s proposal to “privatize” Social Security might save the ailing retirement program — but could deal a death blow to the American system of free enterprise, the Libertarian Party warned today.

“These Social Security bail-out proposals represent a trillion-dollar wolf in privatized sheep’s clothing — and the result could be de facto nationalization of America’s major industries,” warned party Chairman Steve Dasbach.

The Advisory Council on Social Security released a report on Monday recommending three “privatization” scenarios to bail out the troubled program, all involving massive investments in the stock market. According to the panel, the higher yields from stocks would generate enough revenue to keep the 62-year-old federal program afloat.

“But all three plans are pseudo-privatization — and are really blueprints for a trillion-dollar government takeover of American industry,” said Dasbach.

“Under the various proposals, the government would direct between \$500 billion and \$2.1 trillion worth of Social Security investments in private companies. That represents 5% to 10% of the total value of the stock market, which would immediately make the federal government the largest and most influential investor in American business,” he said.

This poses two significant dangers, said Dasbach:

■ In an effort to guarantee adequate revenue for Social Security recipients, politicians could begin legislating companies’ business decisions — “in effect, trying to micromanage billion-dollar businesses from the floor of the House and Senate,” said Dasbach.

■ The government will try to impose meddlesome social engineering programs on private business. “The urge to engage in social engineering on every business in America, backed by \$2 trillion in financial influence, will be irresistible for politicians like Ted Kennedy and Jesse Helms,” predicted Dasbach.

What’s the solution? “*Real* privatization,” said Dasbach. “Get the government completely out of Social Security. As our 1996 presidential candidate Harry Browne proposed, we could sell trillions of dollars worth of unneeded federal assets to finance the liquidation of Social Security through the purchase of private retirement annuities for senior citizens.

“We need to protect Americans’ retirement accounts — but protect free enterprise, too,” said Dasbach. “The only way to do that is to reject all three of these so-called privatization plans.”

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